

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council Member District No. 8

A **special meeting** of the **Committee on Justice and Public Safety**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on Monday, **June 25, 2012**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:07 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8; Committee Member Phillip Farley, Council District No. 1; Committee Member Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2; Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3; Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; ex-officios: Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor and County Council Chairman, Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, Council District No. 4, Mr. Jack Schurlknight, Council District No. 6, and Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7 (via Skype videoconferencing); Ms. Nicole Scott Ewing, County Attorney; and Ms. Catherine Windham, Interim Clerk to Council.

Chairman Steve Davis: "Good afternoon, citizens of Berkeley County. I'd like to call the Special Justice and Public Safety Meeting to order. I'll have Mr. Boling to give the Invocation and Mr. Call to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Ms. Clerk, has this meeting been properly notice by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act?"

Ms. Windham: "Yes, Sir, it has."

Chairman Steve Davis: "Ok."

A. Ms. Scarlett A. Wilson, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Matching Funds

Ms. Wilson: "Thank you, Sir. All of you should have in your packets a document that I prepared for you. I understand that there is a baseball game that may be important to some of you later on tonight, so I have dispensed with the Power Point. You have everything in – that I would say to you is in these documents. The first two pages are the summary pages though. The other pages just corroborate or back up what I say in the first two pages. I come here tonight with good news. Mr. Boling was making fun saying, it looks like you're here to bring a bunch of money in, and I said, well, as a matter-of-fact, I am – \$199,000 into Berkeley County for two grants. Those grants would be for a General Sessions prosecutor, a Family Court prosecutor, and also, an investigator to assist with those two prosecutors. As you will see, if you look at the underlying documents, when you look at Berkeley County in comparison to other counties of similar size and case load, we're lagging behind, and even those counties are lagging behind. We're all underfunded, but Berkeley County, with the case load that we have, I've been telling you for some time that we need more prosecutors. It is most obvious in Family Court where our

case load is tripled what two similar counties have, and I've attached in the documentation the DJJ statistics, which show that. One thing that also stood out in those documents that, for the assault cases that are handled in Berkeley County, Berkeley County alone has 10 percent of the assault cases in South Carolina all by itself. Again, we're tripled what Anderson and Beaufort Counties would have. We are asking again for the matching funds for these two grants that we won to help bring us – this won't bring us up to where we need to be, but it certainly will help. The grant is for one year. What I have learned from doing these grants in the past is, that if you get them that first year, and you do a good job, you work well and cooperate with the grantors, that you're likely to win grant funding for another year. We can win it for three years at the max. But, the amount that Berkeley County would have to put forward is \$22,137.00, which compared to the \$199,230 is not much to ask. And, we would just ask that you vote to approve that, and help my office get to where it needs to be. Berkeley County is not the sleepy south anymore. We've got the numbers in the violence to show it in our office, and we'd ask that we be funded, so that we can help address those things. And, I'd be happy to answer any questions..."

Committee Member Farley: "Move for approval."

Ms. Wilson: "...I know I've talked to several of you about this."

Chairman Steve Davis: "It's been properly moved."

Committee Member Callanan: "Second."

Chairman Steve Davis: "Open for discussion."

Supervisor Daniel Davis: "Of course, we'll need to identify a funding source, and that would be Contingency. If I could get you to add that."

Chairman Steve Davis: "Yeah, could we get the initial move, motion be amended that the source would be from Contingency please."

Committee Member Farley: "I make a motion that we approve the motion, I mean, the grant and money will come from Contingency."

Chairman Steve Davis: "I need a second on it."

Committee Member Callanan: "Second on that."

There was no further discussion.

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Callanan to **approve** acceptance by the Solicitor's Office of two Justice Assistance Grants (JAG), totaling \$199,230.00 (\$127,356.00 and \$71,874.00), to fund two prosecutors (one for General Sessions and one for Family Court), and one investigator to assist same prosecutors, with Berkeley County matching funds, in the amount of \$22,137.00, to come from Contingency.

Ms. Wilson: "Thank you, Sir."

It was moved by Committee Member Callanan and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **adjourn** the special meeting of the Committee on Justice and Public Safety. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

July 9, 2012
Date Approved

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Members: Mr. Phillip Farley, District No. 1
Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2
Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5

Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, District No. 4, ex officio
Mr. Jack Schurlock, District No. 6, ex officio
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, District No. 7, ex officio
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **special meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday, June 25, 2012** at **6:00 p.m.**, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. Ms. Scarlett A. Wilson, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re:** Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) matching funds.

June 20, 2012

Catherine R. Windham
Interim Clerk to County Council